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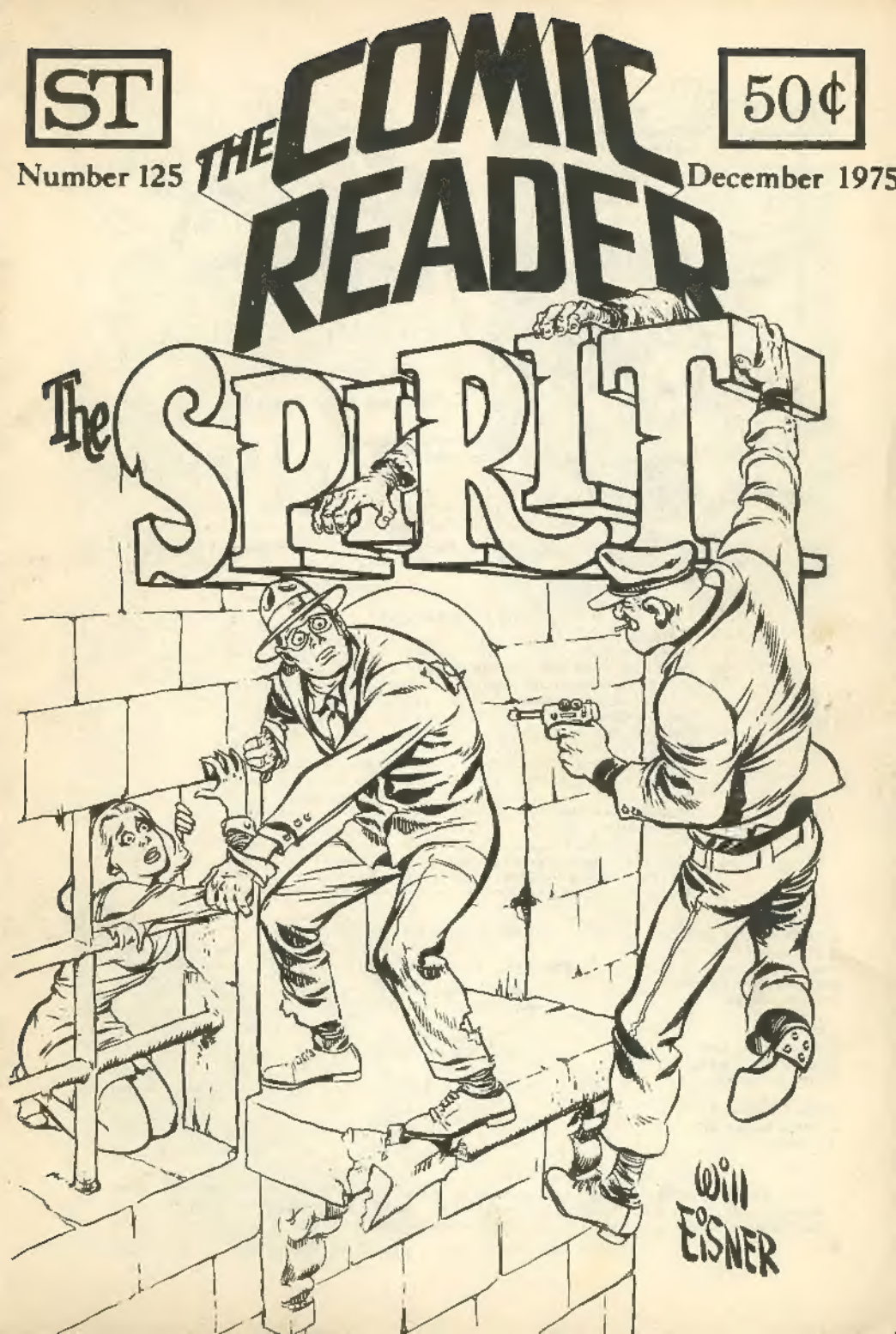
Number 125 THE COMIC READER December 1975

The SPIRIT



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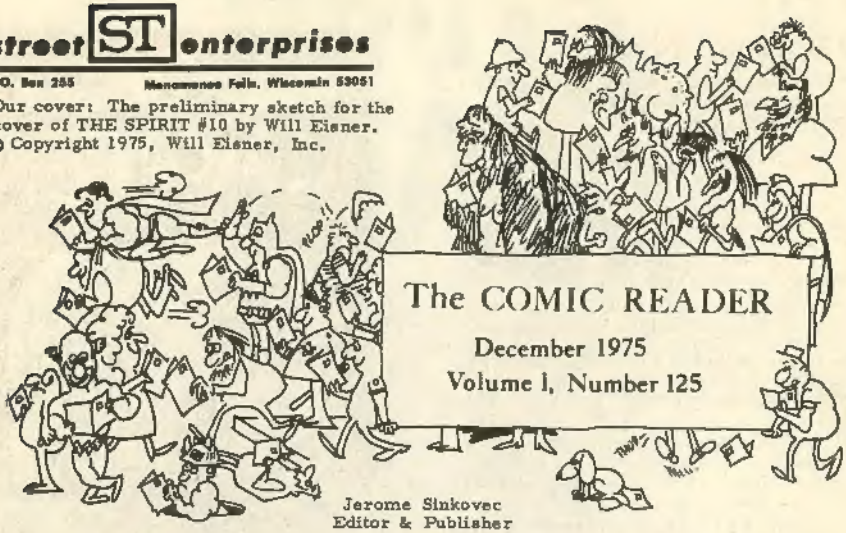

The COMIC READER

December 1975
Volume 1, Number 125

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National News

We'd sincerely like to apologize for last issue's premature announcement of Murray Boltinoff's retirement -- he is NOT retiring, and we were misinformed. We would like to apologize for any inconvenience this has caused.

National is taking the first step this time and raising the price of their 32 page comics to 30¢. In addition, the amount of story pages is being reduced to 17. $1.00 books have already been reduced to 56 pages.

Joe Kubert will continue to edit OUR ARMY AT WAR and will be working on new projects. TARZAN FAMILY has been switched over to Joe Orlando's editorship along with TARZAN. Writers for KORAK and the back-up have not been selected.

The first Orlando issue of TARZAN will be #250. Gerry Conway will be adapting "Tarzan The Untamed" for the book, with layouts by Jose Garcia-Lopez and finished art by the Redondo studio.

SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS, scheduled to debut this month, has been delayed until the February schedule.

DC SUPER STARS #4 will star AQUAMAN.

SUPERMAN #300 will be handled by Neal Adams and Dick Giordano. The cover may be a painting by Adams.

The Elongated Man will not disappear from the pages of DETECTIVE; he'll continue to appear alternating with Man-Bat and Tim Trench.

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GREEN LANTERN & GREEN ARROW will be given a three issue try-out, with Denny O'Neil as editor-writer and Mike Grell as artist on the first issue. Grell has pencilled the second issue. Either preceding or following the appearance of those issues will be another three issue tryout starring GREEN ARROW & BLACK CANARY, edited by Julius Schwartz, scripted by Elliot Maggin, and also probably drawn by Mike Grell. (As always, we are not privy to the numbering sequence to be followed.)

Lee Elias, back in the United States after a long stay in England, will be pencilling an issue of WORLD'S FINEST to be inked by John Calnan.

Those rascally offspring of Superman, Batman, Murray Boltinoff and Bob Haney, the Super Sons, will be returning to WORLD'S FINEST.

One of the members of The Flash's extensive Rogues Gallery is going to die.

The Queen Bee and Sonar will be making their reappearances in JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA.

A new backup feature is being planned for KAMANDI called "Tales Of The Great Disaster." The first has been done by Gerry Conway and Pablo Marcos.

BLACKHAWK is set to run at least six issues. Layouts for the book are being done by the speedy Ric Estrada.

Ric Estrada and Joe Staton are doing the artwork for the Marty Pasko-scripted CREEPER adventure slated for the back of ADVENTURE COMICS.

And Ric Estrada will be pencilling and inking an issue of RICHARD DRAGON, KUNG FU FIGHTER. Can nothing stop him?

Neal Adams is doing a series of public service messages to appear (after an absence of about ten years) in DC comics. Titled "Justice For Children," they will star Superman.

In preparation is the DC Super-Star Society, a new fan club that will feature separate chapters for each of the various DC stars. (A true test of the claims of 'most popular' character.) DC plans a two-page spread for use in a couple of months. Tentative price is $1.00.

DEJA VU DEPARTMENT: When DC Assistant Editor Bob Rozakis isn't editing comics, he works as a department store lot attendant. Recently, he received an award for single-handedly jumping and snaring a purse snatcher. This was AFTER he wrote that ROBIN story in which Robin captured a purse-snatcher in a parking lot. Weird, eh?

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THE NEW, ORIGINAL WONDER WOMAN was telecast November 7 on ABC to glowing reviews by TV GUIDE's Judith Christ and our local paper. To those of you who feared that WW would be treated as camp material, your fears were justified. From the terrible opening animation to the obnoxious pseudo-BATMAN musical theme that popped up each time WW went into action, there was no missing the intent. C loris Leachman, as the Queen Mother, certainly played it for laughs, as did nearly everyone else except Lynda Carter as WW. Quite obviously, ABC has faith in WW's rating prowess since they paid for a second pilot, and technically, from the costumes to the special effects to the acting, there is nothing second class about it. So, even if the show is a bit painful to watch, let's all think of how the show might bolster industry-wide sales, rather than how it compares with OUR version of Wonder Woman.

Marvel News

Marvel has several new books in the works:

THE PRISONER (a color book, rather than a black and white)
MS. MARVEL (Marvel Girl in a new incarnation, written by Mary Skrenes and Steve Gerber)
A secret project by Jack Kirby and NOVA. Written by Marv Wolfman, Nova is the first new super-hero in a long time that hearkens back to the early Stan Lee simplicity. Nova is a straight super-hero, a teen-ager named Richard Rider with super-strength and flight, with other powers developing. He lives with his family (!) on Long Island. The first issue is due out around June; #2 will introduce most of the supporting cast.

Roy Thomas and Gil Kane will be doing a couple of issues of MARVEL PREMIERE featuring the character MOWGLI from Kipling's "The Jungle Book."

DOCTOR STRANGE, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, POWERMAN and MARVEL TALES have all been promoted to monthly status.

Frank Brunner has decided to leave HOWARD THE DUCK. He is thinking about doing a couple of DR. STRANGE issues. John Buscema will be doing HOWARD #3, which will feature "Five Feathers Of Death." Bernie Wrightson may take over the series.

Nightcrawler of the X-Men and The Punisher will both be popping up in the pages of SPIDER-MAN in the ensuing months, although in different issues.

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Archie Goodwin is returning to the scripting of IRON MAN with #88. Issues 84 and 85 were plotted by Len Wein and scripted by Roger Slifer; #86 and #87 were written by Bill Mantlo.

Permanent scripter changes include Roy Thomas' takeover of POWERMAN, Chris Claremont new writer of BLACK GOLIATH, as well as the aforementioned Goodwin inheritence of IRON MAN.

Next year Marvel will be reviving their GIANT-SIZE series, although on separate one-shot basis rather than as a few quarterlies. The agenda includes: THE AVENGERS by Steve Englehart and probably Sal Buscema; CAPTAIN AMERICA by Jack Kirby; DAREDEVIL by Marv Wolfman; THE DEFENDERS by Steve Gerber and Sal Buscema; DR. STRANGE by Englehart and probably Gene Colan; FANTASTIC FOUR by Roy Thomas and John Buscema, in which the FF goes back to 1942 and meets the Invaders; IRON MAN by Gerber and Herb Trimpe guest starring Man-Thing; MARVEL TEAM-UP by Bill Mantlo and Sal Buscema; MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE by Thomas and John Buscema, guest starring The Liberty Legion; MASTER OF KUNG FU by Doug Moench and Keith Pollard; POWERMAN by Roy Thomas and Tony DeZuniga; THOR by Englehart and John Buscema; CONAN by Thomas and Vicente Alcazar, adapting "Phoenix On The Sword"; THE INCREDIBLE HULK by Len Wein and possibly Kirby featuring Hulk vs. Xemnu and more old Kirby monsters than you can shake a goom at; and SPIDER-MAN by Wein and Gil Kane, in which Spidey battles The Human Fly -- the Spider meets the Fly. The books will contain 35 pages of new material and will cost 50¢. The frequency of issue and order of release has yet to be decided.

Red Wolf's appearance in MARVEL CHILLERS has been delayed. Chris Claremont and Frank Robbins have done a fill-in issue for MC #4. Robbins will be taking over as permanent artist on the TIGRA strip with #6.

Craig Russell is now doing the layouts for SON OF SATAN with Sonny Trinidad completing the drawing.

Bill Mantlo is doing a fill-in issue of DAREDEVIL, drawn by Sal Buscema and Klaus Janson. George Tuska is also doing a DD story.

Tony Isabella is writing a two issue fill-in for THE AVENGERS, drawn by Don Heck and John Tartaglione. THE CHAMPIONS #3 is plotted by Tony Isabella and written by Bill Mantlo. Chris Claremont will write #4 and Don Heck will pencil #5. Jim Mooney is the regular inker for THE DEFENDERS.

Tony Isabella is writing a MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE featuring Thing and Tigra. Arvell Jones is drawing another issue of that title.

Hulk will be meeting Jarella again soon and she will come to Earth. A HULK/DEFENDERS crossover is scheduled for next summer. Hulk will guest star in OMEGA THE UNKNOWN #2.

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Firelord is coming back in THOR.

Bill Mantlo will be writing SKULL THE SLAYER #5, but a permanent scripter hasn't been chosen.

Kull will restart his quest to regain his throne in KULL THE DESTROYER. Ed Hannigan is doing breakdowns for the book with Yong Montano slated to finish the art.

We don't know when exactly, but Marvel managed to sneak a GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN #6 out sometime in the last month. We asked if there was going to be a SPIDER-MAN giant this year back in June, when we announced the rest of them, but were told that there wouldn't be any this year. Okay. Did we miss any others?

Gold Key News

GOLD-KEY FUNNIES has been changed to GOLD-KEY SPOTLIGHT. The first issue will have TOM, DICK AND HARRIET, while the second issue will feature WACKY ADVENTURES OF CRACKY. The bi-monthly will be on the lines of the old FOUR COLOR series numbering issues of books that have been cancelled in the same sequence with totally new series ideas.

The first new issue of BULLWINKLE (which will be reprints) will appear in March and will be #12.

The February issue of WALT DISNEY SHOWCASE will take advantage of the Bicentennial to reprint PAUL REVERE'S RIDE -WITH JOHNNY TREMAIN.

By the way, my memory was a bit faulty last issue; TOM, DICK AND HARRIET is by Mark Evanier and Lee Holley (he does PONYTAIL), not Dan Spiegle.

Coming Comics

PORKY PIG (65, February). New stories. (12/4)

NEW TERRYTOONS (36, February). New material. (12/4)

BROTHERS OF THE SPEAR (17, February). New adventures by Gaylord DuBois and Dan Spiegle. Last issue. (12/4)

DARK SHADOWS (35, February). New story by Joe Certa. Last issue. (12/4)

Walt Disney's SUPER GOOF (37, March). Reprints. (12/4)

YOSEMITE SAM AND BUGS BUNNY (34, February). New stories. (12/11)

MIGHTY SAMSON (31, March). New story by Arnold Drake and Jose Delbo. Last issue. (12/11)

LITTLE MONSTERS (32, March). New material. (12/11)

UNDERDOG (5, March). New stories. (12/11)

THE LONE RANGER (24, March). A new story drawn by Jose Delbo is featured. (12/11)

BORIS KARLOFF TALES OF MYSTERY (66, February). New stories. (12/11)

LOONEY TUNES (6, February). New stories in this issue. (12/26)

FAT ALBERT (11, February). New story by Win Mortimer. (12/26)

TWEETY AND SYLVESTER (54, February). New stories. (12/26)

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES (425, February). New and reprint stories. (12/26)

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! (60, February). New stories. (12/26)

DAFFY DUCK (99, February). New stories. (12/26)

Continuity Assoc.

Neal Adams has six more TARZAN paperback covers in the works. He has done a "Steamin' Demon" ad that will run in magazines and newspapers nationwide. Continuity has lately done a lot of work for the PETER PAN Record company. They have done album covers and interior comics for three SUPERMAN records as well as covers for WONDER WOMAN, THE FLASH, ELONGATED MAN, METAMORPHO, PLASTIC MAN, BATMAN, a BATMAN single, SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN and have written the script and done the cover for a BUGS BUNNY record, with voices to be supplied by Mel Blanc. Adams and Dick Giordano are doing the 300th issue of SUPERMAN plus the new series of public service pages featuring Superman designed to help children stay out of trouble by informing them of the law. Neal has some jobs for NATIONAL LAMPOON coming up also, including I. R. A. COMICS.

Warren

CREEPY (77, February). This is an all-Christmas issue. A Christ statue in a church on Christmas Eve comes to life and is beset by demons but a little old lady comes to the rescue in "Once Upon A Miracle" by Bill DuBay and Jose Ortiz; Alex Toth contributes a story called "Wanted: Tiber Miko"; a group of crusading monks fight demons in a haunted abbey in "The Final Christmas Of Friar Steel" by Budd Lewis and John Severin; "Clarice" is a poem by Bruce Jones and Berni Wrightson;

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THE WORLD'S ABSOLUTE BEST IN ILLUSTRATED HORROR!
VAMPIRELLA
VAMPIRELLA THE AWESOME BLOOD-LUSTING GIRL FROM THE STARS, IS TRAPPED IN AN INSANE WORLD OF TERROR!
FIVE CHILLING TALES OF THE SUPERNATURAL!
PLUS: THE SATAN COMPLEX · STAR BRIGHT LANTERN 969

Santa is dead and an elf is trying to carry the load in "The Believer" in color and by Lewis and Rich Corben; "Snow Magic Show" is by Lewis and Jose Sanchez; a future story involves a four-year snow fall, the second ice age and the search for civilization and is "The Final Gift" by DuBay and Paul Neary; and nobody attends 6:00 AM Mass on Christmas except the Devil in "The Final Christmas" by Lewis and Isidro Moniz. The cover is by Sanjulian and features a scene from "Once Upon A Miracle. (12/8)

EERIE (72, February). A man is out to retrieve two magic bracelets taken from him before he was incarcerated in "The Demons Of Jeremiah Gold" by Bill DuBay and Jose Ortiz; "Hunter II" joins forces with The Exterminator as they journey to the demon lord's mountain; Budd Lewis, Howie Chaykin and Berni Wrightson combine forces to bring you a pulp-fiction-detective story that takes place on a zeppelin in "The Scarlet Combine"; a color story stars four freaks who plot against an evil carnival owner and his son in "The Thin Dime Of Pain" by Doug Moench and Leopold Sanchez; the sequel to "Daddy and The Pie" is "The Pie And I" and stars the boy, still armed with Pie's gadget in WW II and is a conscientious objector who wants revenge when the townspeople kill his father in this story by Budd Lewis and Luis Barmejo; plus a little boy hears music and is whisked away to a world of wonder and fantasy in a Little Nemo type tale, "Peter Hynos And The Incredible People-Making Machine" by Budd Lewis. Cover is by Sanjulian. (12/16)

FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND (123, February). (12/16)

VAMPIRELLA (49, February). Vampi confronts a woman who goes around ripping people's hearts out in "The Blood Red Queen Of Hearts" by Bill DuBay and Esteban Maroto; a lurking monster is the subject of "The Thing In Jane's Closet" by Budd Lewis and Ramon Torrents; "Then One Foggy Christmas Eve" is a satire of all the children's horror toys by Gerry Boudreau and Jose Blasquez; "Jewel In The Mouth Of A Snake" was written and drawn by Jose Bea; young men enter strange women's rooms and leave pleased but shells of their former selves and die of old age on the elevator in "The Succubus Stone" by Boudreau, Clement and Torrents; and Rich Margopoulos and Isidro Moniz team up to do an adaptation of Poe's "The Oblong Box." Cover is by Enrich of the Queen Of Hearts. (12/23)

THE SPIRIT (12, February). Three of the Sand Saref and Carrion stories will be featured as well as "Butcher De Bool," "Ice And Snow," "Kiss Of Death," and "Links Robbery." Story and art by Will Eisner; cover is by Eisner and Ken Kelley. (12/23)

Harvey

COMING COMICS: Dated March; RICHIE RICH #140; RICHIE RICH MONEY WORLD #22; SPOOKY #149; HARVEY COLLECTORS' COMICS #4 (WENDY CAMPFIRE); all on sale December 4.

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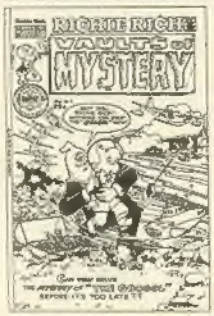
RICHIE RICH FORTUNES #27; RICHIE RICH CASH #10; CASPER #184; SUPER RICHIE #4; all on sale December 11.



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RICHIE RICH VAULT OF MYSTERY #9; RICHIE RICH AND JACKIE JOKERS #9; LITTLE LOTTA #126; HOT STUFF #133; RICHIE RICH GOLD AND SILVER #4; all on sale

December 18.

RICHIE RICH MILLIONS #76; RICHIE RICH GEMS #10; RICHIE RICH RICHES #23; SAD SACK #249; CASPER'S GHOST STORIES #9; all on sale December 26.

National Lampoon

NATIONAL LAMPOON (70, January). This is the Cloak and Dagger issue. It features "Presidential Sex File" by Gerry Sussman; "UFO Blue Book" by P. J. O'Rourke; "Diary Of An Assassin" by Doug Kenney; "Re-Creation Of The Kennedy Assassination" by Ann Farm; "Where Were You When President Kennedy Was Shot?" by Dean Latimer; "New York Review Of Jews" by Tony Hendra; "Silent Sentinels" (two pages devoted to fire hydrants) by Pedar Ness; "Blow Rabbit Comics" by Ted Mann, Frank Springer and Neal Adams; and "The Day Christ Was Shot" by Peter Kaminsky. (12/9)

Et Al

Mel Graff, longtime writer-artist of SECRET AGENT X-9 (1940-60), the Sunday CAPTAIN EASY (1960-1970) and creator of THE ADVENTURES OF PATSY (1934-40), died November 1 at the age of 68. The latter strip is considered to be one of the most classic examples of the beauty of those comic strips of the Noel Sickles-Milton Caniff school of influence.

Rex Stout, creator of NERO WOLFE, whose exploits inspired a comic strip of the same name and whose partner shares his name with another comics character (Archie Goodwin) and who starred in 46 books, died October 27. He was 88. The first WOLFE book was FER-DE-LANCE.

For those of you who've seen WEIRD HEROES #1, you may have noticed that it is not quite as we described it, as it resembles a pulp with illustrations more than comics. We have a few copies of the first issue and they may be had for $1.50 from us. Copies are limited.

WEIRD HEROES #2 features: DOC PHOENIX, a new pulp hero by Ted White and Steve Fabian; SPZ 166, a new feature that introduces Gonzo storytelling in "Thomas Jefferson Would Throw Up All Over You" by Elliot Maggin, Ralph Reese and Paul Kirchner; VIVA, a San Francisco-based prostitute by Steve Englehart and Esteban Maroto; "The New York Review Of Bird" starring Cordwainer Bird, guest starring The Shadow by Harlan Ellison and Neal Adams; "The Return Of Greatheart Silver" by Philip Jose Farmer and Tom Sutton; and "Na And The Dreadspore Of Gruaga"--a visual story with no words drawn by Alex Nino. The cover is by Steranko. (12/2)

Byron Preiss promises some exciting news for next issue's TCR "certain to appease those of your readers who felt disappointed when they discovered WEIRD HEROES was not all comics."

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SIX NEW HEROES IN ONE EXCITING BOOK!
DOC PHOENIX, THE MAN WHO ENTERS THE MIND
Amazing and Fantastic editor Ted White delivers DR. RAMOND PHOENIX, logical successor to the epic style adventurers of Clark Savage Jr. — DOC PHOENIX, the original new hero with the flavor of the old pulps!
CORDWAINER BIRD, ELLISON'S MEDIA HERO
The sensational Harlan Ellison introduces a media hero to take the N.Y. literary establishment by a storm! Soe Ellison's nom-de-plume become a "real" hero (with art by Neal Adams) in "The New York Review of Bird."
GREATHEART SILVER — EPIC PULP HERO
Famous pulp biographer and science fiction author Philip José Farmer presents the return of the fantastic zeppelin captain and adventurer in a hilarious sequel illustrated by Tom Sutton!
VIVA — EAST COAST/WEST COAST DRAMA
Popular Marvel writer Steve Englehart involves you in the life of Viva, a San Francisco prostitute undergoing a sudden and traumatic metamorphosis! With intricate new art by Esteban Maroto.
SPV 166 — THE UNDERGROUND EXPRESS
Mix National Lampoon artist Ralph Reese with Superman Writer Elliott Maggin and get SPV 166 — the insane story of three female ex-convicts who sleuth from a reconditioned subway car in the labyrinth under New York!
THE CAMDEN KID — A MODERN WESTERN
For people who don't like Westerns comes comedian Charlie Swift's CAMDEN KID, the cowboy from Camden, New Jersey!
Edited and Developed by Byron Preiss
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BYRON PREISS
VOLUME 2

Charlton Coming Comics

SPEED BUGGY (5, March). Tales of the adventurous auto by Bill Williams. (12/4)

WHEELIE AND THE CHOPPER BUNCH (5, March). Hanna-Barbera's other four-wheeled friend. (12/4)

THE GREAT GAZOO (15, March). The adventures of a little green fellow in the Stone Age are by Tony DiPreta. (12/9)

DINO (15, March). Fred Flintstone's prehistoric pet is picturized by Frank Roberge. (12/9)

YANG (12, March). Yang travels north to Skagwam, Alaska to find "1,000 Ways To Die," which is by Joe Gill and Warren Sattler. Cover painting also by Sattler. (12/9)

FIGHTIN' ARMY (123, March). Three stories that show war is you-know-what. (12/9)

BLONDIE (218, March). The Sultan of the Sandwich and his Bananas Better Half appear in their comic book version by Paul Fung, Jr., who also did the cover. (12/11)

WAR (5, March). Stories of fighting in different times, different places. Cover painting by Tom Sutton. (12/11)

BEETLE BAILEY (115, March). The newspaper strip's perplexing private in new adventures by Bob Gustafson. (12/16)

EMERGENCY Magazine (3, March) black and white. The paramedics appear in a

story drawn by Bill Draut, Don Vaughn and the "Goon Squad" (Mark Rice, Carl Potts, Joe Barney, Joe Brozowski, Bruce Patterson, Russ Heath, Terry Austin, Bob Wiacheck and Rick Bryant). Cover is by Neal Adams. (12/16)

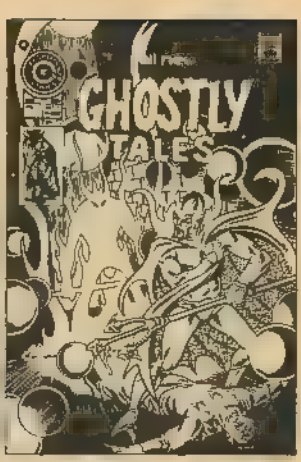
SPACE: 1999 (3, March). The existance of everyone on the Moon base is threatened as an approaching meteor is discovered to be a giant seed which produces spores that start to envelop everything. "Spores" is by Mike Pellowski and Adolfo Buylla. Cover is by John Byrne. (12/16)

EMERGENCY (2, March). Color adventures of the life-saving TV heroes. Cover painting by John Byrne. (12/16)

SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN (2, March). A terrifying time is had by Col. Austin thanks to a miniature bionic duplicate in "The Effigy" by Nick Cuti and Joe Staton. Cover is a painting by Staton. (12/16)

HAUNTED (26, March). A mirror reveals the evil that stains a man's soul in "See No Evil" by Joe Gill and Mike Zeck; a family mansion is haunted by the presence of the ghost of an old member of the family in "The Bridal Chamber" by Gill and Frank Bolle; and a happy ending is lacking though the werewolf's spirit is exorcised in "The Werewolf's Ghost" by Nick Cuti and Bob Hall. Cover is reproduced at left. (12/18)

MIDNIGHT TALES (17, March). This entire book, cover and insides, is by Wayne Howard as an Egyptian murder suspense is examined from three aspects in "Tomb Of Hemon Chirops," "Crypt Of The King," and "Jaws Of Death." (12/18)



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SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN Magazine (3, March) black and white. TV's Steve Austin appears in stories by Ed Davis, Sal Amendola, and the aforementioned "Goon Squad." Cover by Neal Adams. (12/18)

FIGHTIN' MARINES (128, March). Tales of Leathernecks in battle! (12/23)

SECRET ROMANCE (37, March). Guys 'n Gals gettin' it on. (12/23)

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DOOMSDAY + 1 (5, March). Our band continues to fight for survival in the devastated world of the future. Story by Joe Gill and John Byrne, cover painting by Byrne. (12/23)

VENGEANCE SQUAD (5, March). The Squad battles a masked bomber in a story by Joe Gill and PAM. Mike Mauser also appears in a story by Nick Cuti and Joe Staton. Cover by PAM. (12/23)

SPACE: 1999 Magazine (5, March) black and white. More adventures from the new IPC television show. (12/23)

MY ONLY LOVE (5, March). Heartwreck and romance. (12/30)

SECRETS OF YOUNG BRIDES (5, March). Howcum there are never any secrets of young grooms? Cover painting by Mike Vosburg. (12/30)

GHOST MANOR (28, March). A selection of stories about secretive spooks. Cover by Steve Ditko. (12/30)

GHOSTLY TALES (120, March). Voodoo and the Caribbean are the components of a tale set in the late 1700's -- "Happiness House" by Joe Gill and Larry Englehart; a century later we visit Austria in "That Personal Touch" by Paul Kupperberg, Charles Nicolas and Vincent Alascia; and the New Orleans Mardi Gras is the setting of a visit by Mr. Scratch in "Satan's Night Out" by Gill and Steve Ditko. Cover by Ditko. (12/30)

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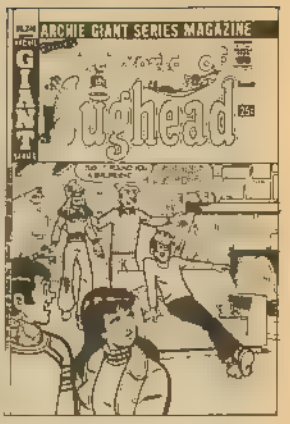
Archie



COMING COMICS: WORLD OF ARCHIE #244 (March); ARCHIE'S JOKEBOOK #217; BETTY AND VERONICA #242; PEP COMICS #310; all dated February unless otherwise noted; all on sale November 25.

WORLD OF JUGHEAD #245 (April); ARCHIE'S PALS 'N' GALS #102; EVERYTHING'S ARCHIE #45; LAUGH COMICS #299; LIFE WITH ARCHIE #166; JUGHEAD #249; LITTLE ARCHIE #103; all dated February unless otherwise noted; all on sale December 2.

MADHOUSE #101; ARCHIE AND ME #81, ARCHIE COMICS DIGEST #160; all dated February; all on sale December 9.

SABRINA THE TEEN-AGE WITCH #30; ARCHIE AT RIVERDALE HIGH #33; ARCHIE'S TV LAUGHOUT #37; JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS #87; all dated February; all on sale December 16.

Media News

Felicitations, friends... Touching on TV first for a change, I feel it my duty to recount the cancellations thus far: THE MONTEFUSCOS, FAY, FAMILY HOLVAK, INVISIBLE MAN, THREE FOR THE ROAD, BEACON HILL, KATE McSHANE, and BIG EDDIE. You'll notice that they re all NBC and CBS shows; ABC hasn t announced anything yet (although BARBARY COAST and MOBILE ONE will probably be axed). I'd say that they re already ahead of the game compared to other seasons where they capitulated almost immediately. Besides these cancellations, NBC switched time periods for POLICE WOMAN and POLICE STORY, while CBS will do the same for their THURSDAY NIGHT MOVIE and HAWAII FIVE-O/BARNABY JONES. They've also moved M*A*S*H to Tuesdays in an attempt to create another comedy monolith. New shows announced thus far are ONE DAY AT A TIME, a Norman Lear comedy featuring a widow and her kids in Indianapolis (every new comedy a new city) for CBS following M*A*S*H on Tuesdays, THE BLUE KNIGHT starring George Kennedy replacing KATE McSHANE, a RICH LIT-

TLE variety hour for NBC, another Norman Lear show for NBC called THE DUMPLINGS starring James Coco, and perhaps a DICK VAN DYKE variety show also for NBC. CBS has instated 60 MINUTES in place of THREE FOR THE ROAD... Viewers who weren't watching James Bond in YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE on November 2 were probably watching Patrick McGoohan guest star on COLUMBO (if they weren't watching KOJAK and BRONK). If so, they may have caught an in-joke when David White (Larry Tate from BEWITCHED), appearing as the CIA director, flashed a badge reading: "Phil Corrigan, Secret Operative X-9." Someone reads comics... I haven't mentioned that ABC's WIDE WORLD MYSTERY on Thursday is running MANNIX and LONGSTREET reruns, both Paramount productions. Nice to see Nicki and Pax again... David Steinberg has been signed to host a new NBC midday show called NOONTIME. It's described as comedy-variety... In '76, THE GOODIES will be syndicated by Time-Life Productions. It's another BBC comedy, similar to MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS... Another comic strip is heading for the screen -- it's England's DAN DARE, a strip that appeared in EAGLE in the fifties and sixties. He's a space explorer and the treatment will be as a Bond-style hero fifteen hundred years from now. Britain's Phenomenal Films is planning a multi-million dollar series of six features, the first of which, RETURN OF THE MEKON, will be started next spring... Films that are in the writing stage include EXORCIST PART II by William Goodheart, DIRTY HARRY III by Stirling Silliphant (although nobody's gotten Clint Eastwood's name on a contract), THE SWARM, THE LAST RIDE WEST and WHEN THE MOUNTAINS MOVED all three by Irwin Allen, MERLIN LIVES by John Boorman, GREYSTOKE (which has to be about our favorite vine-swinger), THE SPY WHO LOVED ME (the next 007 film), DEMON SEED which is based upon a sf novel by Dean Koontz, and TELEFON, another sf film. Stanley Kubrick has a new one too, following the upcoming BARRY LONDON... A 90 minute animation spectacular featuring 5 minute segments by each of sixteen animation studios around the world entitled CLOCKWORK CARMEN (based on the classic CARMEN story) will be released in '76. Involved in this multi-national project are Chuck Jones and Ralph Bakshi as well as studios from France, Belgium, Italy, Yugoslavia, Japan, England, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Canada and Sweden... Quote from VARIETY: 'Due to roll at Pinewood later this month is Hammer Films' VAMPIRELLA comedy"which is being directed by John Hough. The word comedy would be in direct opposition to what Peter Cushing, on 11/6's TOMORROW program, claimed, i.e., Hammer never intentionally made tongue-in-cheek horror films. I know that certain black and white publishers wouldn't care to see a comedy made of their creation... Seven Keys plans to re-release Mel Brooks THE TWELVE CHAIRS in an attempt to make it a hit the second time around... Alexander and Ilya Salkind are casting SUPERMAN as Mario Puzo is doing rewrites on the screenplay -- which calls for the thing to be done straight, not campy. They're searching for at least five male superstars and an American female to portray news-hen Lois Lane (perhaps I should submit my eight by ten glossies for consideration)... The Salkind's are also doing a project called VIVA MEXICO, planned to be a five-feature anthology. The elder Salkind's wife and the younger's mother is a Mexican, and the films are intended to be historical adventures... Having finished the shooting of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES' SMARTER BROTHER, Gene Wilder is set to star in 20th Century Fox's comedy SUPERCHIEF. Wilder is to play a successful author taking a train ride from L.A. to Chicago for two days of rest during which he becomes involved comedically with characters played by many stars in cameo roles... WON TON TON, THE DOG WHO SAVED HOLLYWOOD, a new movie take-off on Rin Tin Tin (who really did save Warner Bros. in the '20s), will feature a long list of old film stars including Don Ameche, John Carradine, Bill Demarest, Stepin Fetchit, Dorothy Lamour and the Ritz Brothers... After numerous announcements that the western is dead (an idea seemingly supported by the release of only two widely distributed westerns in '74 -- BLAZING SADDLES and Disney's WAIKIKI COWBOY -- and the cancellation of GUNSMOKE) suddenly a whole flock of westerns are being readied for release this year including the already released POSSE, BITE THE BULLET, TAKE A HARD RIDE, THE MASTER GUNFIGHTER, ROOSTER COGBURN and the upcoming STORY OF GRIZZLY ADAMS, MISSOURI BREAKS (which stars Jack Nicholson and Marlon Brando), MACINTOSH AND J.J. (with Roy Rogers), MUSTANG COUNTY (starring Joel McCrea!), THE LAST HARD MAN (starring Charlton Heston) and HEARTBREAK PASS (starring Charles Bronson) based upon a best-seller by Alaister MacLean... New comic strips started in the last couple of months include CROCK by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker (a sort of Wizard Of Id in the foreign legion), D.C.'S WASHINGTON by Pat Morain, Warren Hinderer and Stan Leitner) (bad jokes and bad caricatures of current politicians), and AUGUSTA, an American release of Britain's CLIVE by Puelonia (I think)... On a closing note, let us hope that THE NEW, ORIGINAL WONDER WOMAN is not too embarrassing, as it looks like ABC is finally sold on the idea of doing a WW TV series regularly.

-Rona Blabbit

Fanzine Reviews

STAR*REACH #3 ($1.25, Star*Reach Productions, P.O. Box 385, Hayward, CA 94543) has arrived at last. This issue boasts a full-color wraparound cover by Frank Brunner along with a sword and sorcery tale written and illustrated by him. Other artists appearing here are Lee Marrs, Mike Vosburg (and his LINDA LOVECRAFT series), Bob Smith, John Workman and Steve Leialoha doing stories written by Mal Warwick and editor-publisher Mike Friedrich. If you enjoyed the

two previous editions of S*R, you will probably find this one to your liking. I do wish they'd stray a little from the s-f and barbarian strip to maybe a traditional super-hero of sorts. #4 (due late Winter '76) will mark the return of Howie Chaykin's CODY STARBUCK, so perhaps a regular line-up of characters can be instituted in future issues, at least on an alternating basis.

DEADSPAWN #1 ($1.00, Joe Treacy, 2400 D. Walmer Street, Norfolk, VA 23513) is billed as "The New Magazine Of Fandom." I'm not sure exactly what this means as the zine certainly does not cater to comics fandom alone. Such varied topics as the final days of Atlas Comics, Deaths of Moe Howard and Vaughn Bode, movies and Nostradamus are featured in just twenty pages. The Atlas article by David Kraft is the best of the ish but it is far too short. The centerspread of old west saloon doors opening to a two-page text story is cute but unimpressive. Within these pages we can see the classic example of trying to do too much but not having enough space to do anything proper justice. Hopefully, future issues will contain a bit more meat than fat.

DOC #1 ($1.50, G.B. Love, 5600 N. Freeway, No. 341, Houston, TX 77022) is a newspaper tabloid that is identical in format to Mr. Love's TREK fanzine. The Doc Savage movie is given more coverage than any other phase of The Man Of Bronze's career in the 24 pages that make up this zine. The pulps, comics and paperback reprints also are reviewed. There are far too many movie stills and ads for other publications to warrant the $1.50 price tag and I would recommend this to Savage completists only. -Larry Charet

Et Al

It might be mentioned that some of the comics released in December and late November by DC and Marvel will feature that little square of parallel lines in the bottom left hand corner that has been on Charlton comics for the past year. It is known as the Universal Product Code and it is now featured on most products that can be bought in a supermarket. It is intended for use by new automated checkout-cash register systems which 'read' the code and compute the cost of the product and file its sale, all without anybody punching keys or buttons. It hardly contributes to the composition and design of the comic book cover but it is a requirement, apparently, that all periodicals will soon have to comply with. It has been said that its present position on the front cover is the only one possible, so let's not all write to the companies and ask them to switch it to the back cover; it won't work.

The Museum Of Cartoon Art in Greenwich, Connecticut, is currently presenting a special display of the work of Jack Kirby until December 31. The exhibit includes Kirby work from the last forty years including pencilled comic book pages and covers, inked covers and color collages. Original comic book art, as well as posters, portfolios and a special Museum Souvenir Booklet will be on sale. The Museum is open from 10 to 4 Tuesdays through Fridays and from 1 to 5 on Sundays. A suggested contribution of $1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children is asked for at the door. The Museum is located at 384 Field Point Road, Greenwich, CT 06830, a short distance from Exit 3 on the Connecticut Turnpike. For mor info, call 203-661-4502.

The Museum is also soliciting memberships at $15.00 a year. The money is tax-deductable, and in addition, you'll receive a four issue subscription to the quarterly newsletter, free admission to the museum, 20% discount on the merchandise the Museum sells (such as books, paperbacks, original art, magazines, etc.) when purchasing $5.00 of stuff, a portfolio print and notification of all events and exhibits.

The Writer's Side

Q: When you take over the writing of a character book created by someone else, do you feel an obligation to continue what the preceding writer has begun, with regard to either character or continuity?

DAVID MICHELINIE: The only obligation I feel when I take over a strip is to do the strip well. Of course, some continuity is necessary in order not to alienate regular readers who have been following the series. Beyond that, it all depends upon the quality of the strip. When I took over SWAMP THING it was probably the best-written comic on the stands, and for the first few issues I tried to emulate Len Wein's style as closely as possible. On the other hand, when I took over THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER I didn't think that the character was being handled right. I felt he should have been more bitter and ruthless,

(Continued on page 19)

ST Pocket Checklist

December 1975

Marvel

- ☐ AMAZING ADVENTURES #35
- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #154
- ☐ ASTONISHING TALES #34
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #145
- ☐ BLACK GOLIATH #2
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #195
- ☐ CAPTAIN MARVEL #43
- ☐ CHAMBER OF CHILLS #21
- ☐ THE CHAMPIONS #4
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #60
- ☐ CRAZY #16
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #131
- ☐ DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU #20
- ☐ THE DEFENDERS #33
- ☐ DOC SAVAGE #3
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #168
- ☐ HOWARD THE DUCK #2
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #197
- ☐ THE INVADERS #5
- ☐ IRON MAN #4
- ☐ JUNGLE ACTION #20
- ☐ KID COLT OUTLAW #204
- ☐ MARVEL FEATURE #3
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #56
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #65
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #43
- ☐ MARVEL TRIPLE ACTION #28
- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #14
- ☐ MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #62
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #38
- ☐ MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN #44
- ☐ MY LOVE #39
- ☐ OMEGA THE UNKNOWN #1
- ☐ PLANET OF THE APES #17
- ☐ RAWHIDE KID #132
- ☐ THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #10
- ☐ SGT. FURY #132
- ☐ SKULL THE SLAYER #4
- ☐ STRANGE TALES #184
- ☐ THOR #245
- ☐ TOMB OF DARKNESS #19
- ☐ TOMB OF DRACULA #42
- ☐ WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #37

National Lampoon

- ☐ NATIONAL LAMPOON #70 (Cloak & Dagger)

Gold Key

- ☐ BORIS KARLOFF TALES OF MYSTERY #66
- ☐ BROTHERS OF THE SPEAR #17
- ☐ DAFFY DUCK #99
- ☐ DARK SHADOWS #35
- ☐ FAT ALBERT #11
- ☐ LITTLE MONSTERS #32
- ☐ THE LONE RANGER #24
- ☐ LOONEY TUNES #6
- ☐ MIGHTY SAMPSON #31
- ☐ NEW TERRYTOONS #36
- ☐ PORKY PIG #65
- ☐ RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! #66
- ☐ SUPER GOOF #37
- ☐ TWEETY AND SYLVESTER #54
- ☐ UNDERDOG #5
- ☐ WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES #425
- ☐ YOSEMITE SAM AND BUGS BUNNY #34

National

- ☐ ACTION COMICS #457
- ☐ ADVENTURE COMICS #444
- ☐ ALL STAR COMICS #59
- ☐ BATMAN #273
- ☐ THE BATMAN FAMILY #4
- ☐ BLACKHAWK #245
- ☐ BLITZKRIEG #2
- ☐ THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #125
- ☐ CLAW THE UNCONQUERED #6
- ☐ DC SUPER STARS #1
- ☐ DETECTIVE COMICS #457
- ☐ FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL #12 (Starman)
- ☐ FLASH #240
- ☐ FOUR STAR SPECTACULAR #1
- ☐ THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS #1
- ☐ GHOSTS #46
- ☐ G. I. COMBAT #188
- ☐ THE JOKER #6
- ☐ JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #128
- ☐ KAMANDI #39
- ☐ KARATE KID #1
- ☐ OUR ARMY AT WAR #290
- ☐ OUR FIGHTING FORCES #165
- ☐ PLOP! #20
- ☐ SHAZAM! #23
- ☐ STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES #197
- ☐ SUPERBOY #215
- ☐ SUPERMAN #297
- ☐ TARZAN #247
- ☐ THE TARZAN FAMILY #62
- ☐ TOR #6
- ☐ THE UNEXPECTED #172
- ☐ THE WARLORD #2
- ☐ WEIRD WAR TALES #45
- ☐ WEIRD WESTERN TALES #33
- ☐ WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #236

Warren

- ☐ CREEPY #77
- ☐ EERIE #72
- ☐ FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND #123
- ☐ THE SPIRIT #12
- ☐ VAMPIRELLA #49

Charlton

- ☐ BEETLE BAILEY #115
- ☐ BLONDIE #218
- ☐ DINO #15
- ☐ DOOMSDAY + 1 #5
- ☐ EMERGENCY #2
- ☐ EMERGENCY Magazine #3
- ☐ FIGHTIN' ARMY #123
- ☐ FIGHTIN' MARINES #128
- ☐ GHOST MANOR #28
- ☐ GHOSTLY TALES #120
- ☐ THE GREAT GAZOO #15
- ☐ HAUNTED #26
- ☐ MIDNIGHT TALES #17
- ☐ MY ONLY LOVE #5
- ☐ SECRET ROMANCES #37
- ☐ SECRETS OF YOUNG BRIDES #5
- ☐ SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN #2
- ☐ SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN Magazine #3
- ☐ SPACE: 1999 #3
- ☐ SPACE: 1999 Magazine #5
- ☐ SPEED BUGGY #5
- ☐ VENGEANCE SQUAD #5
- ☐ WAR #5
- ☐ WHEELIE AND THE CHOPPER BUNCH #5
- ☐ YANG #12

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TCR Mailboat

Beginning this issue we'll be printing all of our various correspondence in the umbrella title of TCR Mailboat. The people who wrote long letters to our poll will likely feel slighted that we excerpted from their letters but our space is limited and it was the only way.

GILBERT HORN, Franklin Square, NY: If I had the power to create a comic book, I would use Philip Wylie's GLADIATOR, Hugo Danner, with great relish. Unfortunately, Danner has already given birth to more bastardizations than can be reconned with. As a second choice, I would use E. E. Doc" Smith's great LENS series as a basis for an exciting book.

MARK BARSOTTI, Littleton CO: The book that I would create, had I the power, would be about and based on the famed SKYLARK series by E. E. Doc Smith. There would be so much to work with, the four books (THE SKYLARK OF SPACE, SKYLARK THREE, SKYLARK OF VALERON, SKYLARK DU QUESNE) contain a huge amount of important facts on which to build a great book... All his characters were great and very believable. Richard Seation, Martin Crane, their wives, and of course Du Quesne, along with the hundrede of others that came and went as the pages melted away before us. ...I would like to see the SKYLARK series done, but only if it could be done very well and if the storyline followed the original.

KIM DRAHEIM, Seneca Falls, NY: I would like to see a multipart epic, painstakingly accurate adaptation of Frank Herbert's DUNE. My girlfriend, Joann Townsend, would like to see a quality (preferably Jim Starlin) STAR TREK series.

H. KEATING DuGARM, JR., Minot, ND: I would say Robert A. Heinlein's Lazarus Long (AKA: Woodrow Wilson Smith, "Happy" Daze, His Serenity Seraphin The Younger, Supreme High Priest Of The One God In All His Aspects, And Arbiter Below And Above, Proscribed Prisoner #83M 2742, Mr. Justice Lenox, Cpl. Ted Bronson, Dr. Late Herbert, and others), star of TIME ENOUGH FOR LOVE, one of the best books I ever read. That is, only if it really done justice to.

STEVE A. CHAPUT, FPO San Francisco: I believe that a series based on Richard Falkirk s BLACKSTONE of the pre-Scotland Yard British police force would make an especially colorful and exciting strip. The action-oriented stories and the inner turmoil of Blackstone himself would lend themselves well to the comics page.

RICHARD NATHAN: I would most like to see a continuing comic series that was a good adaptation of my favorite book, Sir Thomas Malory's LE MORTE D'ARTHUR. Yes, I know that National is doing a KING ARTHUR book, but I said a GOOD adaptation. There is no way National's version could be any good because Gerry Conway is writing it. ... I know everyone doens't hate Gerry Conway('s writing) the way I do, but I don t understand why.

JOHN SULLIVAN, Fullerton, CA: My character would be an Angel. You say Marvel beat me to it? No, I mean a real Angel. Why is it that Marvel and related companies feel Satan will sell and God won't? Are they afraid of offending someone? I doubt it; Satan is a lot more offensive than God. We have SON OF SATAN, SATANA, Daughter Of Satan and various assorted demons. Now granted, on the whole these titles are well written and characterized. But who is to say an Angel, coming to Earth for some reason (and to make things more interesting, say he or she in so doing becomes mortal, with certain powers) also couldn't be well written and characterized? You would already have a powerful enemy to confront him with, Satan. Costumewise, almost anything would do -- after all, he does have certain abilities, one of these could be a clothes change; halo or wings optional.

(Actually, it seems more likely that we'd get an ARCHANGEL comic before an ANGEL comic. MT)

DANIEL something, MN: I would like (to see a comic book based upon) Howie Chaykin's own CODY STARBUCK. No one, even people at Marvel can say, after reading STAR* REACH #1 that Chaykin doesn't have a story to tell. I think we should support him in anyway we can in that effort. Choice #2 is MARK TIME from DEAR FRIENDS by The Firesign Theatre, featuring Bob Bunny, Dr. Technical, Prince Arcturus and Commander Demos. Choice #3: A book called SAVE THE CHILDREN. Choice #4: Oh, I forgot. I'll try to remember!

(These were the sum total of respondents who understood the question. A lot of people thought we wanted to know who should be revived. Among them were: JIM MILLAWAY of Tulsa who wants to see Kaluta's SHADOW and a '30s-set pulp version of FU MANCHU; ROBERT ABRAMS wishes to see SILVER SURFER and NICK FURY (by Gulacy; this IS being planned for a MARVEL PREMIERE or SPOTLIGHT issue); Lester Boutillier wants to see GREEN LANTERN and THE ATOM restored to their own books as well as SILVER SURFER; JOHN IAVARONE of Albany wants to see HANGMAN & SHIELD revived (not too likely since BLACK HOOD, though completed was never released; and GARY OPPENHUIS of Dekalb, IL also wants SILVER SURFER. I was surprised at the lack of movie, TV or radio adaptation requests; characters like SAM SPADE, CHARLIE CHAN, JAMES BOND, GREEN HORNET, and that most obvious of all choices, CHICKEN MAN, spring immediately to my mind. Sometime we'll see who everybody wants revived the most; until then, try to stick to the question, okay? MT)

LESTER BOUTILLIER, New Orleans: What is this "Roger Elwood/Western Publishing ORION line of science fiction comics" I read in the sf fanzine KARASS? All they say about it is that it's gonna have artwork by Ron Miller. ORION COMICS? What's this all about? And what happened to SHERLOCK

HOLMES from DC? Has it been cancelled or what? I've seen the first issue, out in June, but nothing since. Maybe it was a trial balloon one-shot that failed? These are important and perplexing questions that quite possible only TCR can answer.

(The Gold-Key science fiction comic IS a reality and will be released sometime in '76. (It hasn't made the schedule thus far.) See TCR #114 for details of the project as originally intended; last we heard is that Jose Garcia-Lopez and other of the NY-based GK artists are drawing. And SHERLOCK HOLMES was indeed a one-shot, originally scheduled for FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL. MT)

ROBERT ABRAMS again: How about listing FOOM & AMAZING WORLD OF DC COMICS in the Coming Comics section the month that they're on sale? I think it would be very helpful, especially with FOOM; nobody ever knows when it's out.

(We're game if they are. The problem is that they're not on a regular production schedule and may be released anytime. MT)

STEVEN JOHNSON, Boulder Creek, CA: I thought you might appreciate a listing of some other deletions in the Checklist. I'm arbitrarily starting in January 1975, and you may have already brought some of these to the reader's attention: January - MARVEL TEAM-UP #32; February - SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #5; SGT. FURY #126; March: STALKER #1; April: GIANT-SIZE KID COLT #3; June - MARVEL TREASURY EDITION #6; August - DEADLIEST HEROES OF KUNG FU #1; October - GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN #6 and MARVEL TALES #64. Of course there have been title errors all of which are probably not your fault such as MONSTERS UNLEASHED Summer Special being M, U, Annual #1 on the cover and #9 on the inside, as well as KUNG FU #1 being RICHARD DRAGON, KUNG FU FIGHTER #1, but you have to roll with the punches.

(Thanks for the corrections. We don't usually list non-comics like DHOKF #1, although we did list TOMMY #1 -- cause we thought it was comics. GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN we didn't know about at all -- Marvel said that there definitely WASN'T a Spider-Man giant this summer -- until we picked it up a week ago (end of October). And my favorite numbering paradox is SAVAGE TALES ANNUAL #1, also listed as SAVAGE TALES #12 on the inside. Overstreet will have fun with that.)

JACK BROOKS, Westfield, NJ, Re: WRITER'S SIDE in TCR #123: I expected as much from the DC (present) scripters -- excluding O'Neil; Roy Thomas' remarks surprised me. I don't feel you can substitute story for characterizations, even for the casual reader. It is the players, not the situations, that bring a reader back. One can see the same plot (basically) in ANY comic, but people are made to be cared about; the players are that which make steady buyers. Give us nothing but story and it becomes like a daily diet of honey: You either tire of it or slowly lose the vividness of the sweetness.

(Some valid points, but -- if characters are all, how can the success of the mystery titles, HOUSE OF MYSTERY, et al., be explained? Obviously, a delicate balance is needed. MT)

BRIAN MADIGAN: I've gotten very confused in trying to collect Atlas Comics as to what did come out and what didn't. Now that Atlas is dead, I think that it would be helpful if TCR published a complete checklist of everything Atlas actually got to the newsstands.

(Exactly our thinking, Brian. We're confused also, so we'll list only what we've purchased ourselves. If anybody has anything other than those listed, please tell us. THE BARBARIANS #1; BLAZING BATTLE TALES #1; THE BRUTE #1-3; THE COUGAR #1, 2, DEMON HUNTER #1; THE DESTRUCTOR #1-4; DEVILINA #1, 2; FRIGHT #1; THE GRIM GHOST #1-3; HANDS OF THE DRAGON #1; IRONJAW #1-4; MORLOCK 2001 #1-3; MOVIE MONSTERS #1-4; PHOENIX #1-4; PLANET OF VAMPIRES #1-3; POLICE ACTION #1-3; SAVAGE COMBAT TALES #1-3; THE SCORPION #1-3; TALES OF EVIL #1-3; TARGITT #1-3; THRILLING ADVENTURE STORIES #1, 2; TIGER-MAN #1-3; VICKI #1-4; WEIRD SUSPENSE #1-3; WEIRD TALES OF THE MACABRE #1, 2; WESTERN ACTION #1; WULF THE BARBARIAN #1-4.

These were announced but never released: THE BARBARIANS #2; THE COUGAR #3; THE DESTRUCTOR #5; FRIGHT #2; HANDS OF THE DRAGON #2; IRON JAW #5; KRO-MAG #1; MORLOCK 2001 #4, MAN-MONSTER #1; PLANET OF VAMPIRES #4; TALES OF EVIL #4; and VICKI #5. I hope that clears it up once and for all. MT)

ANDY HILDEBRAND: Why such a lame name for your letter column?

(If you think of TCR as an ocean liner, then it makes sense to think of this department as a tug boat, helping the ship to dock. On the other hand, metaphors were never my strong point. MT)

This month a Reader Poll Question is: Will National's upcoming price hike alter your buying habits?

The Writer's Side

(Continued from page 14)

what with having his face turned to sloppy hamburger by a grenade, and so I proceeded to take him in that direction. In both cases, sales seem to have validated my decisions.

ARCHIE GOODWIN: Definitely, unless it's a specific instance where you're put on a book and given directions to try and change it dramatically, where a book hasn't been selling or your editor is dissatisfied with it. Otherwise, any changes should be made gradually.

CHRIS CLAREMONT: Yes and no. It depends. If you are taking over SPIDER-MAN, you've got to continue whatever has been established in the last 150 issues. But if you are taking over BLACK GOLIATH with the second issue, or the X-MEN with the second issue, then you can change it because the characters haven t been formed. I think THE X-MEN (as

I'm writing them) turned out a lot differently than they might have had Len Wein stayed on the book. The question isn't an absolute yes or no. It varies from book to book, character to character, writer to writer.

ROGER SLIFER: I think that you're under obligation to carry on continuity, and to make whatever changes that you desire to make in the series gradually enough and with consideration to the past character development in order not to abruptly force the reader into accepting a situation or development that is not a logical extension of previous continuity.

MARV WOLFMAN: Both yes and no. Primarily if I feel the previous writer was handling it correctly, usually I will finish whatever sub-plots the other writer began, then go on with my own. On DAREDEVIL, I continued Len's sub-plots, then added my own twist to them. But usually I would try to at least tie up what a previous writer had begun before trying my own.

JOHN DAVID WARNER: In talking about over a book permanently (as permanently as anything is in this industry), a conditional "no." I won't jaggedly break with the writer's continuity. I'll try to make a smooth transition. I won't make changes for the sake of making changes. I'll bring the character around to the point where I feel comfortable with him. I try to find a common denominator with the linear continuity of the overall series and take it from there, whatever developments might occur. The exception to this is when you take over a book for just a few issues. I may not be able to write like the other writer, but I try to capture his spirit and not throw wrenches in it.

BOB ROZAKIS: I guess I have to say no. I feel obligated to continue certain situations but improve them. As far as characterizations, it's a matter of personal preference. Initially it would appear that any writer is carrying on what has previously been developed but over a long period of time a comparison would show obvious changes.

CARY BATES: Not in the least. Sometimes the very reason a character is given to another writer is because the editor wants to have it changed. When I took over THE FLASH, it was from Robert Kanigher. He was doing human interest stories. Julie wanted early '60s type stories, so it was a joint effort to change the character. On the other hand, when I took over the Legion, I didn t make any changes. I kept it the way it was going.

ROY THOMAS: I definitely do. I always insisted as editor that people do this for the reason there has to be continuity from issue to issue not to alienate the reader. The only exception to this is when you are told to change a book to improve sales.

STEVE GERBER: I believe that for the reader's sake you must at least begin where the preceding writer left off, particularly with regard to continuity. But a writer's own style is going to alter the book. But the writer should at least begin with what the previous writer has left him.

LEN WEIN: It depends upon the book, naturally. If a book has been well-plotted and well-conceived all along, it makes no sense to change things just to change things just to suit my own whims. For example, I changed virtually nothing when I took over SPIDER-MAN and THOR from Gerry Conway. On the other hand, if I've been given an assignment in the hopes of saving a certain title or increasing flagging sales, change may be mandatory. You pays your money and you takes your choice. No two circumstances are ever exactly alike.

Marvel Coming Comics

DAREDEVIL (131, March). The first of a two parter with Bullseye, a new super-villain who can turn anything into a deadly weapon and an extortionist who goes after DD, is "Meet Bullseye -- He Never Misses ' by Marv Wolfman, Bob Brown and Klaus Janson. (12/2)

KID COLT OUTLAW (204, March). (12/2)

TOMB OF DRACULA (42, March). The big ending of the Dr. Sun saga thrusts Blade deep into the battle in "The Final End Of Dr. Sun" by Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. Cover is by Berni Wrightson. (12/2)

THE INVADERS (5, March). The Red Skull captures all The Invaders except Bucky, believing him beneath contempt -- which turns out to be a fatal mistake in "Red Skull In The Sunset" by Roy Thomas, Rich Buckler and Dick Ayers (pencils) and Jim Mooney (inks). The cover is by Jack Kirby. (12/2)

TOMB OF DARKNESS (19, March). (12/2)

MY LOVE (39, March). (12/2)

DOC SAVAGE (3, February) black and white. Doc stars in 'The Inferno Scheme' by Doug Moench, John Buscema and Tony DeZuniga, while Monk solos in the backup, called A Most Singular Writ Of Habeus Corpus" by Moench and Rico Rival. The cover is by Ken Barr. (12/2)

THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU (20, January) black and white. Iron Fist is featured in "Soul Slayer" the second of six parts, by Chris Claremont and Rudy Nebres. Plus, the Sons Of The Tiger appear in "A Beginning" by Bill Mantlo, George Perez and Jack Abel. Cover and inside front cover are by Ken Barr. (12/2)

THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN (10, Feb-

ruary) black and white. The adaptation of "Conan The Conqueror" concludes and occupies the entire book. Story by Roy Thomas and art by John Buscema and the Tribe. The cover is by Boris Vallejo. (12/2)

PLANET OF THE APES (17, February). The third segment of the Future History Chronicles is "Graveyard Of Lost Cities" and is by Doug Moench and Tom Sutton. Part One of "Conquest Of The Planet Of The Apes" is presented by Moench and Alfredo Alcala. Also featured is the long-awaited Glossary. The cover is by Bob Larkin. (12/4)

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (154, March). The Sandman returns, gets his costume back, and goes on a mission for a mystery villain in "The Sandman Always Strikes Twice" by Len Wein, Sal Buscema and Mike Esposito. Cover is by John Romita. (12/9)

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CAPTAIN AMERICA (195, March). Cap and Falcon penetrate the mysterious headquarters of the people attempting to take over the U.S. and we meet Cheer Chadwick, daughter of the man running the operation in "1984" by Jack Kirby and D. Bruce Berry. Cover is by Kirby and Berry. (12/9)

THOR (245, March). The Time Twisters-

Tomorrow Man saga is concluded in "Temple At The End Of Time' by Len Wein, John Buscema and Joe Sinnott. Cover is by Buscema and Sinnott. (12/9)

MASTER OF KUNG FU (38, March). Shang Chi reluctantly goes on a mission to Hong Kong for Nayland Smith and ends up forced to meet the mysterious deadly spy known as "Cat in a fight to the death in the first part of a two parter by Doug Moench, Paul Gulacy and Dan Adkins. Cover is by Gil Kane and Frank Giacoia. (12/9)

MARVEL S GREATEST COMICS (62, March). The FF are featured in "Where Treads The Living Totem from FF #80 by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott. Cover is by Kirby and Sinnott. (12/9)

MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE (14, March). The Thing and the Son Of Satan team-up to fight demons in a 'Ghost Town' in this issue's adventure by Bill Mantlo, Herb Trimpe and John Tartaglione. Cover is by Gil Kane and Dan Adkins. (12/9)

CHAMBER OF CHILLS (21, March). (12/9)

ASTONISHING TALES (34, March). Deathlok is rescued from certain death by the CIA who send him to kill Ryker -- who has become God -- in "All The King's Men..." by Rich Buckler, Bill Mantlo and Klaus Janson. The cover is by Buckler and Janson. (12/9)

STRANGE TALES (184, March). Dr. Strange is reprinted from ST #127 and 128 with 'The Duel With The Dread Dormammu" and "The Demon's Disciple" by Stan Lee and Stev Ditko. Cover is by Steve Ditko. (12/9)

SKULL THE SLAYER (4, March). All the supporting cast is killed -- or so it appears -- and Slitherogue, Merlin and The Black

Knight in Time Out Of Mind' by Steve Englehart, Sal Buscema, Mike Esposito, and John Tartaglione. (12/9)

THE MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN (44, March). (12/9)

CRAZY (16, March), black and white. (12/9)

THE AVENGERS (145, March). All the villains ever beaten by the Avengers pay one million dollars plus expenses to have the Avengers killed by The Assassin... who has NEVER failed. Part One is called The Taking Of The Avengers" and is by Tony Isabella, Don Heck and John Tartaglione. (12/16)

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (60, March). A multi-part episode during which Conan will earn the name Amra begins with Riders Of The River Dragons' by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Steve Gan. Cover is by Gil Kane and John Romita. (12/16)

THE DEFENDERS (33, March). The Defenders at the mercy of the Head Men! A U-Boat in Central Park Lake??? Plus, a surprise mystery villain -- all in "Webbed Hands, Warm Heart" by Steve Gerber, Sal Buscema and Jim Mooney. (12/16)

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (197, March). Hulk vs. Man-Thing plus the appearances of The Glob and The Collector are offered in "... And Man-Thing Makes Three!" by Len Wein, Sal Buscema and Joe Staton. The cover is by Berni Wrightson. (12/16)

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES (56, March). The final issue of TALES TO ASTONISH (#101) is reprinted with Subby starring in "And Evil Shall Beckon" by Archie Goodwin, Gene Colan and Dan Adkins, and the Hulk featured in 'Where Walk The Immortals" by Stan Lee,

Marie Severin and Frank Giacoia. Cover is by Jack Kirby and Marie Severin. (12/16)

RAWHIDE KID (132, March). (12/16)

JUNGLE ACTION (20, March). An epic fight in a supermarket, more on Monica s sister's death and a crucifixion-like climax characterizes They Told Me A Myth I Wanted To Believe by Don McGregor, Billy Graham and Bob McLeod. Cover is by Ric Buckler and Dan Adkins. (12/16)

MARVEL TRIPLE ACTION (28, March). The Avengers star in 'The Ultroids Attack" by Roy Thomas and Don Heck from #36 of their own magazine. Cover is by Heck. (12/16)

MARVEL TALES (65, March). From Spidey's 64th issue is reprinted ' The Kingpin Strikes Back by Stan Lee, John Buscema and John Romita and Jim Mooney. Cover is by Romita. (12/16)

MARVEL FEATURE (3, March). The golden key Red Sonja acquired last issue awakens a golem-like creature that has existed for eons in "Balek Lives ' by Bruce Jones and Frank Thorne. Cover is by Thorne. (12/16)

BLACK GOLIATH (2, March). The Atom Smasher is revealed to be unrelated to Radion and new characters and sub-plots are introduced in White Fire, Atomic Death" by Chris Claremont, George Tuska and Vince Colletta. (12/16)

FANTASTIC FOUR (168, March). Ben Grimm becomes human again and is replaced by Powerman -- and The Wrecker appears at an inopportune moment in "Where Have All The Powers Gone?" by Roy Thomas, Rich Buckler and Joe Sinnott. Cover is by Buckler and Sinnott. (12/23)

MARVEL TEAM-UP (43, March). Spider-Man, Dr. Doom, The Vision, The Scarlet Witch -- and The Dark Rider who causes the team-up of Spidey and the Doc to battle a monster from Earth's past in "Past Gone Mad" by Bill Mantlo, Sal Buscema and Mike Esposito. Cover is by Gil Kane and Dan Adkins. (12/23)

IRON MAN (84, March). Happy is suffering from internal injuries stemming from his unsuccessful IM masquerade so they use The Enervator on him and -- well, guess what happens in "Night Of The Living Bomb" by Len Wein, Roger Slifer, Herb Trimpe and Jack Abel. (12/23)

SGT. FURY (132, March). From #32 is reprinted "Traitor In Our Midsts" by Roy Thomas, Dick Ayers and John Tartaglione. Cover is by Ayers. (12/23)

THE CHAMPIONS (4, March). Herc and Black Widow try to kill Angel, Ghost Rider, Iceman and Ivan in Murder At Malibu" by Chris Claremont, George Tuska and Vince Colletta. (12/23)

CAPTAIN MARVEL (43, March). Captain Marvel battles The Destroyer in "Destroy, Destroy" by Steve Englehart and Al Milgrom. The cover is by Milgrom and Berni Wrightson. (12/23)

AMAZING ADVENTURES (35, March). The original War Of The Worlds title logo returns as Killraven and his band face the most fearsome menace of their time plus a creature that lives only twenty-four hours in the ruins of Atlanta. "The 24 Hour Man" is by Don McGregor, Craig Russell, Keith Giffen and Jack Abel. (12/23)

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT (37, March). Well, if everything goes right, this issue should feature "The End" by Doug Moench and Don Per-

lin, as they wrap up the Marcosa-Hellhouse sequence. Cover is by Perlin. (12/23)

HOWARD THE DUCK (2, March). An unpublished social critic, the macabre menace of the Kidney Lady, the diabolical machinations of the deadly demonic space turnip, a man who wants to be a super-hero and a duck who wants to be left alone populate "Cry Turnip" by Steve Gerber, Jim Starlin, Frank Brunner and Steve Leialoha. Cover is by Brunner. (12/23)

OMEGA THE UNKNOWN (1, March). A dying world somewhere in the far reaches is conquered by a race of men of living metal and Omega is the last of his race. But what is the mysterious connection between him and James Michael Starling? "Omega The Unknown" is by Steve Gerber, Mary Skrenes and Jim Mooney. The cover is by Ed Hannigan and Joe Sinnott. (12/23)

National Coming Comics

OUR ARMY AT WAR (290, March). Rock and Easy must come up with a means to battle Hitler's new elite corps of "Super Soldiers" in a story by Bob Kanigher and Frank Redondo over Joe Kubert's layouts. Norman Maurer's Medal Of Honor series continues with a story called "The Magnificent Failures," and Sergio Aragones contributes a War Games. The cover is by Kubert. (12/2)

GHOSTS (46, March-April). Carl Wessler scripts three more true ghost stories in this issue: "Keep Beating, Haunted Heart' by Ruben Yandoc; "The Curse Of The Mad Marlowes' by Rico Rival; and "The World's Most Famous Phantom" by Lee Elias. The cover is by Luis Dominguez. (12/2)

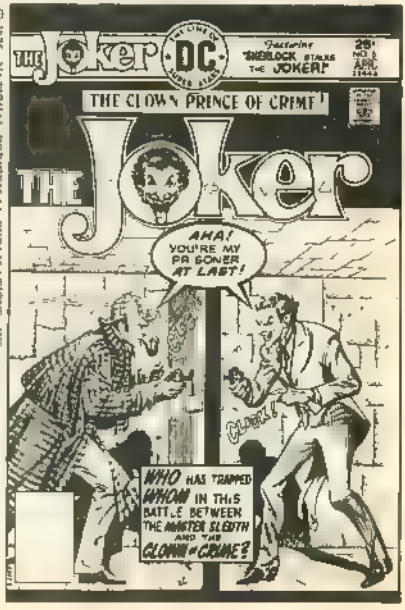
WEIRD WESTERN TALES (33, March-April). Crazy Joe Bigfoot, Indian leader, battles Jonah Hex in "The Day Of The Tomahawk" by Mike Fleisher and Jose Garcia-Lopez. Cover is by Joe Kubert. (12/2)

THE JOKER (6, March-April). The Heinous Hyena battles an actor who thinks he's first generation offspring of A. Conan Doyle in "Sherlock Stalks The Joker" by Denny O'Neil, Irv Novick and Tex Blaisdell. Cover is by Ernie Chua. (12/4)

KAMANDI (39, March). Kamandi and Arna are trapped underwater in a goldfish bowl by intelligent shellfish in "The Airquarium" by Gerry Conway, Jack Kirby and Mike Royer. The first episode of "Tales Of The Great Disaster" concerns Canus and Pyra and a race of intelligent burros. Cover is by Joe Kubert. (12/4)

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA (128, March). Wonder Woman finally returns to the fold only to find that the JLA has decided to disband! "Death Visions Of The Justice League" is brought to you by Marty Pasko, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (12/4)

THE BATMAN FAMILY (4, March-April) 68 pages. Batgirl and Robin star in separate adventures this time -- Batgirl fighting hired assassins in "Cage Me -- Or Kill Me" by Elliot Maggin, Pablo Marcos and Vince Colletta, while Robin experiences "Robin's (Very) White Christmas" in a story by Bob Rozakis, Jose Delbo and Colletta. The reprints include: "Ace The Bathound," "Bruce Wayne Loses the Guardianship of Dick Gray-


THE Joker
DC
THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME!
THE Joker
AHA! YOU'RE MY PRISONER AT LAST!
WHO HAS TRAPPED WHOM IN THIS BATTLE BETWEEN THE MASTER SLEUTH AND THE CLOWN OF CRIME?
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son," and "The New Crimes Of The Mad Hatter." The cover is by Ernie Chua. (12/4)

KARATE KID (1, March-April). Through the wonder of 30th Century science and 20th Century literary license, KK ends up in the present to battle an old Legionnaire turned bad -- Nemesis Kid -- "My World Begins In Yesterday" by Paul Levitz, Ric Estrada and Joe Staton. The cover is by Mike Grell. (12/4)

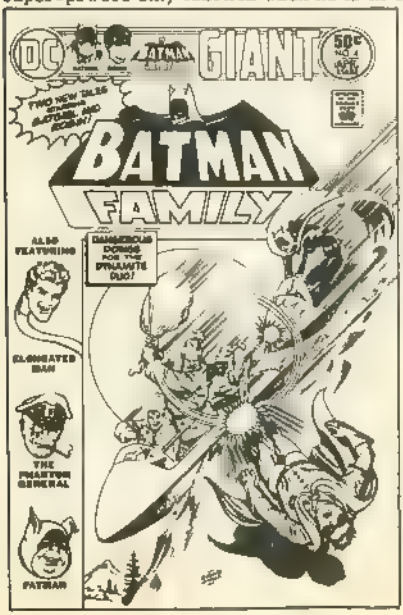
STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (197, March). The trail of a new Nazi secret weapon leads The Unknown Soldier into Africa in "The Herschel Gambit" by David Michelinie and Gerry Talaoc. The filler is an inventory story, "Big War, Little War" by Archie Goodwin and Mike Kaluta. The cover is by Joe Kubert. (12/9)

THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS (1, March-April). The Quality crew from Earth X -- Uncle Sam, The Ray, Black Condor, Doll Man, Human Bomb and Phantom Lady -- have become residents of Earth One and star in this introductory chapter by Gerry Conway, Marty Pasko, Ric Estrada and Mike Royer. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (12/9)

TOR (6, March-April). Tor's concluding reprint adventure for now is "Crater Men" by Joe Kubert. The backup is "Fire" and is also by Kubert. The cover is by Kubert. (12/9)

BATMAN (273, March). The saga of the Underworld Olympics continues as the Europeans attempt to win the medal with "The Bank-Shot That Baffled Batman" in a tale by David Reed, Ernie Chua and Frank McLaughlin. The cover is by Chua. (12/9)

SUPERMAN (297, March). Superman also continues a multi-parter as he finds that his super-powers only function when he is in costume and decides that he'd like to live as "Clark Kent Forever -- Superman Never!" in the second part of the series by Cary Bates, Elliot Maggin, Curt Swan and Bob Oksner. The cover is by Bob Oksner. (12/11)



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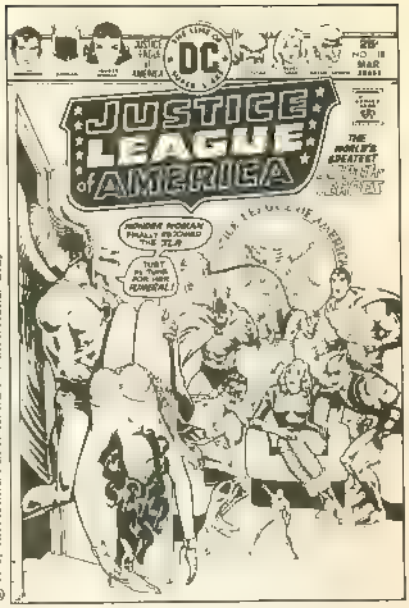

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THE WARLORD (2, March-April). This two-shot concludes as Travis Morgan is captured and has to fend for himself in "The Arena Of Death" by Mike Grell. The cover is by Grell. (12/11)

PLOP! (20, March-April). This issue's mangled mysteries include "The Gentle Way" by Steve Skeates and Sergio Aragones; "Meat His Maker" by Maxene Fabe and Dave Manak; and Plopular Poetry by Wally Wood. The cover is by Slim Johnson. (12/11)

FOUR STAR SPECTACULAR (1, March-April) 68 pages. Befitting its title, this book features the following four: Superboy in "The Stolen Identities' by Otto Binder and George Papp; Hawkman in ' The Attack Of The Crocodile Men" by Gardner Fox and Murphy Anderson; Wonder Woman in "The Talking Lion from the Golden Age; and The (Jay Garrick) Flash in "The City Of Shifting Sand ' from the Golden Age also -- but redrawn by Edgar Bercasio, who s from the Phillipines. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (12/11)

OUR FIGHTING FORCES (165, March). The Losers run up against the puzzlingly effective Rowboat Fleet" in a story by Bob Kanigher, Ric Estrada and George Evans. The backup feature is "Don't Cry For A Sergeant" by Murray Boltinoff and E. R. Cruz. The cover is by Luis Dominguez. (12/16)

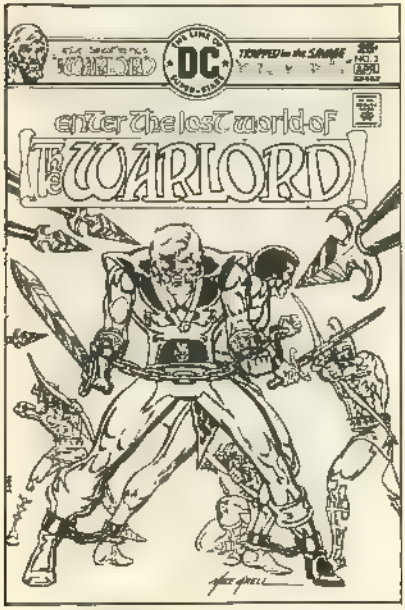
WEIRD WAR TALES (45, March-April). The stories in this issue are "The Battle Of Bloody Valley" by George Kashdan and Buddy Garnale,

"Conquest" by Jack Oleck, Mike Vosburg and Vince Colletta, and "Ordeal" by Oleck and Noly Panaligan. Intro is by Gerry Talaoc and the cover is by Joe Kubert. (12/16)

ALL STAR COMICS (59, March-April). The Super Squad and the JSA reunite after their separate battles to fight Brain Wave and his new ally in "Brainwave Blows Up" by Gerry Conway, Paul Levitz, Ric Estrada and Wally Wood. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (12/16)

CLAW THE UNCONQUERED (6, March-April). Claw and Ghilikin's attempts to complete their Grimstone Quest are endangered by "The Sunset Doom Of Dhylkha-Ryn" by David Michelinie and Ernie Chua. The cover is by Chua. (12/18)

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD (125, March). Batman and Flash combine their resources to battle the menace of "Streets Of Poison" in a tale by Bob Haney and Jim Aparo. The cover is by Aparo. (12/18)



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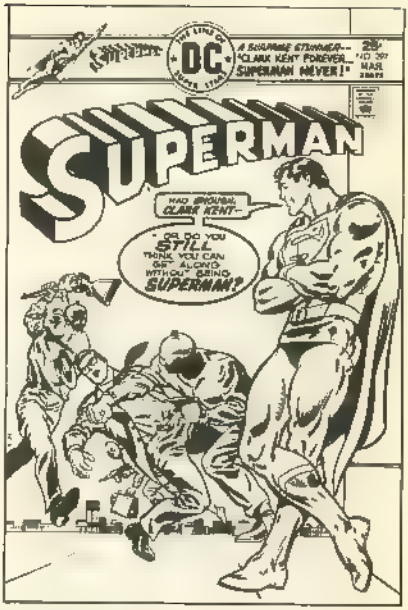
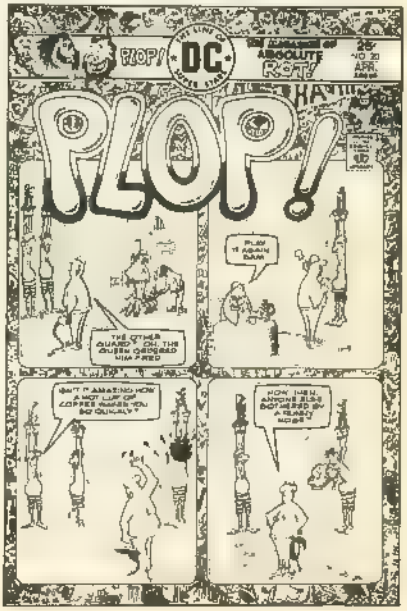
SUPERBOY (215, March). Sun Boy loses control of his powers and a spy lurks in the Legion headquarters in "The Final Eclipse Of Sun Boy" by Cary Bates and Mike Grell. And who is "The Hero Who Wouldn't Fight?" Jim Shooter, Grell and Bill Draut know, but won't tell. The cover is by Grell. (12/18)

TARZAN FAMILY (62, March-April). The continuously unlucky Korak finds himself stranded on "The Island Of Lost Heads' in a story by Bob Kanigher and Rudy Florese. John Carter of Mars returns in a new backup story by Bob Kanigher, Joe Kubert, Noly Zamora and Vicatan. Another Manning newspaper TARZAN adaptation and a Carson Of Venus adventure, "Battle Cry" by Len Wein and Mike Kaluta, round out the issue. The cover is by Kubert. (12/18)



BLITZKRIEG! (2, March-April). The German side of the war is again explored in "Walls Of Blood" by Joe Kubert, Bob Kanigher and Ric Estrada. The backup stars The Huns in ' Circle Of Death" by Kanigher and Estrada plus Sam Glanzman contributes a Battle Album. The cover is by Kubert. (12/23)



WORLD'S FINEST COMICS (236, March). Having been evicted from his ACTION COMICS abode, The Atom teams up with Superman and Batman to journey to a sub-atomic world where "Killers Come In All Sizes." Story is by Bob Haney, art is by Dick Dillin and John Calnan. The cover is by Ernie Chua and Tex Blaisdell. (12/23)

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THE FLASH (240, March). The Stacy Conwell sub-plot comes to a head in "Collision Course With Disaster" by Cary Bates, Irv Novick and Tex Blaisdell. Meantime, Green Lantern is in space fighting the Ravagers Of Olys in "The Floods Will Come' by Denny O'Neil, Mike Grell and Blaisdell. Cover is by Ernie Chua. (12/23)

FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL (12, March). The penultimate FIS features STARMAN, an alien who comes to our planet to save it from pillagers from his own. "Starman" is by Garry Conway, Mike Vosburg and Mike Royer. The cover is by Joe Kubert. (12/23)

BLACKHAWK (245, March-April). A seldom explored facet of the Blackhawks was their personal lives and histories -- but now we find out that Hendrickson not only has a daughter, but that there was once an eighth Blackhawk in

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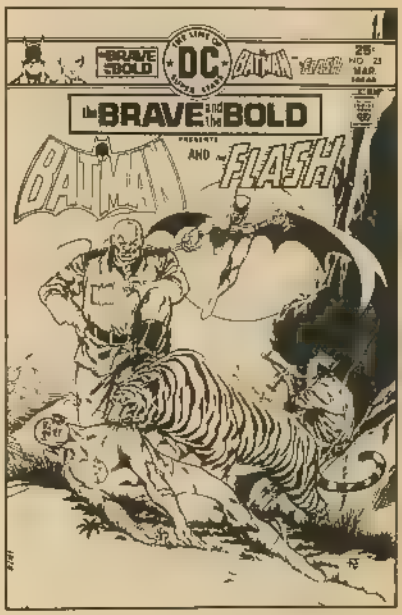

"Death's Double Deal" by Steve Skeates and George Evans. The cover is by Joe Kubert. (12/23)

SHAZAM! (23, Winter). Captain Marvel, Captain Marvel Jr. and Mary Marvel, The Marvel Family, must rebuild the Earth when they undertake "The World's Mightiest Project" from the Fawcett files. The cover is by Kurt Schaffenberger. (12/23)

G. I. COMBAT (188, March). Strains of music waft across the battlefield to confound and entrap The Haunted Tank in "The Devil Pipers" by Bob Kanigher and Sam Glanzman. The new continuing backup feature is about the supply column manned by Blacks in WWII, "The Redball Express" by Bart Regan and Fred Carillo. The cover is by Luis Domingues. (12/30)

THE UNEXPECTED (172, March). It really is unexpected when we know that the contents of this issue are "Strangler In Paradise" by Carl Wessler and Rory Camboa, "What Did You Do With My Body?" by Jack Kelly and Rico Rival and "Scream Of Fear" by George Kashdan and Frank Redondo. The cover is by Luis Domingues. (12/30)

DETECTIVE COMICS (457, March). A very special adventure in which Batman returns to the site of his parents death is "There Is No Hope In Crime Alley" and is by Denny O'Neil and Dick Giordano. Sue Dibny has to rescue her husband necessitating "Make Way For The Elongated Woman" in a story by Bob Rozakis and Kurt Schaffenberger. Cover is by Dick Giordano. (12/30)

ACTION COMICS (457, March). Gerry Conway's premiere as a Superman scripter, preceding his Superman-Spider-Man story, is "Superman, You're Not Clark Kent -- And I Can Prove It!" The art is by Curt Swan and Tex Blaisdell. Green Arrow and Black Canary conclude their run in this title as they follow the "Flight Of The Nutty Kid" in a tale by Elliot Maggin and Mike Grell. The cover is by Bob Oksner. (12/30)

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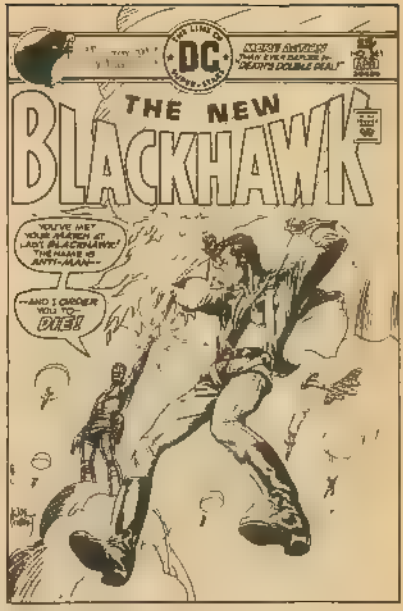
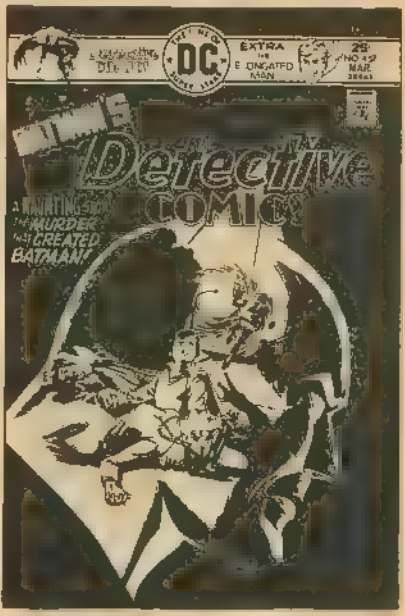


DC SUPER STARS (1, March),68 pages. The first monthly issue of this new book which will feature different DC characters every issue, features the Teen Titans in two stories, "Skis Of Death" by Bob Haney, Gil Kane and Nick Cardy and "Monster Bait" by Haney and Cardy. Cover is by Nick Cardy. (12/30)



ADVENTURE COMICS (444, March-April). Aquaman is replaced as King Of Atlantis by Karshon (no relation to Johnny) and must face his criminal sibling The Ocean Master in "And Death Before Dishonor" by Paul Levitz, Gerry Conway and Jim Aparo. Cover is by Aparo. (12/30)

TARZAN (247, March). Tarzan must overcome "The Diamond Slaves" in the latest story by Joe Kubert and the Redondo studios. Cover is by Kubert. (12/30)

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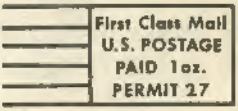

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